

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 EUR-25 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 /156 W

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P 271650Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9451

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

USCINCSO FOR POLAD PRIORITY

UNCLAS LIMA 2393

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PE, CI

SUBJECT: PERU DENIES AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD CHILE

1. MORNING PRESS FEATURES PROMINENTLY DECLARATIONS BY
HIGH LEVEL PERUVIAN OFFICIALS DENYING THAT PERU
SEEKING WAR WITH CHILE.

2. JUNTA MEMBER AND AIR FORCE MINISTER GILARDI
REPORTED AS BLAMING COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO ANDEAN PACT
INTEGRATION FOR CIRCULATING RUMOR THAT PERU PLANNING
AGGRESSIVE ACT AGAINST CHILE. GILARDI SAID THAT ONLY
ARMS SELLING NATIONS WOULD BENEFIT BY WAR. HE ASSURED
CHILEAN PEOPLE THAT PERU ONLY WANTS UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF NATIONS. GILARDI STATED THAT PERU RESPECTS CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT AND THAT FRATERNAL TIES EXIST BETWEEN TWO
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COUNTRIES' ARMED SERVICES. AS EXAMPLES, HE RECALLED

RECENT VISIT OF CHILEAN CADETS FOR AIR FORCE ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS AND FORTHCOMING VISIT IN MAY OF 90
CHILEAN AF OFFICERS ON TRAINING TRIP. GILARDI
REITERATED THAT "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO THOSE
RUMORS ABOUT A SUPPOSED AGGRESSIVE ACTION ON PERU'S
PART."

3. PRO-GOVERNMENT CRONICA REPORTS PRESIDENTIAL STAFF
(COAP) CHIEF GENERAL GRAHAM AS SAYING THAT INTERNATIONAL
COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES ARE ORCHESTRATING A LIE AND
TRYING TO MAKE PERU APPEAR AS COMMUNISM'S CAPITAL IN
LATIN AMERICA. GRAHAM STATED THAT THIS CAMPAIGN IS
MOUNTED TO UNCHAIN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT, THAT PERU
NEITHER SEEKS NOR WANTS. ADDRESSING AUDIENCE OF
TEACHERS, GRAHAM ASKED WHETHER THEY HAVE SEEN ANY
RUSSIANS IN PERU. AUDIENCE ANSWERED "NO." STAY ALERT,
GRAHAM REPORTEDLY CONTINUED; IN 1879 (WHEN WAR BETWEEN
CHILE AND PERU BROKE OUT) WE DID NOT HAVE INSURANCE
AND IT IS BETTER TO HAVE IT AND NOT NEED IT THAN TO
NOT HAVE INSURANCE AND NEED IT (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE
TO PERU'S LACK OF PREPAREDNESS IN 1879). GRAHAM SAID
THAT PERU DOES NOT WANT TO SPOIL THE EFFORTS OF THE
REVOLUTION WITH A WAR THAT WOULD LEAD TO NOTHING.

4. TODAY'S PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT AFTER A VISIT TO
BUENOS AIRES, PERUVIAN ARMY G-2 GENERAL SANCHEZ HAS
ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO FOR A FOUR-DAY VISIT.
BELCHER

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